worked out in advance as it depends upon several factors as listed above.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

Allotment of Petrol Retail Outlets to SC/ST in North-East

410. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol retail outlets advertised for allotment to SCs/STs in North-east Region during the last three years;

(b) whether these retail outlets have been allotted to SC/ST persons during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the norms laid down by Government for such allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) During the last three years i.e. 96-97, 97-98 and 98-99 (Apr. '98-Jan. '99), oil companies have advertised 16 retail outlet dealerships for Schedule Tribes in the North-Eastern Region. Selection for these dealerships has not yet been held.

(d) As per existing policy for allotment of dealerships/distributorships, locations included in the approved marketing plans are advertised by the Oil Companies inviting applications from persons meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualifications, residence, income, etc. Selection of eligible candidates is made by the Dealer Selection Boards on merit. Reservation for different social objective categories is provided as under:—

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	- 25%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	- 5%
Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	- 8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	- 8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	- 2%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	- 2%
Open (O)	- 50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all the categories mentioned above reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal, Umarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others.

In the North Eastern Region keeping in view the predominance of ST population, higher percentage of reservation has been provided for 'ST' category in 4 States the details of which are given below:

	ST (Percentage)
Arunachal Pradesh	70
Meghalaya	80
Nagaland	80
Mizoram	90

Network of Kerosene and LPG Supplies in Eastern U.P.

411. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the network of kerosene oil and LPG supplies in eastern part of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some proposals in this regard are pending for the district Sultanpur and Faizabad in U.P.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil companies have proposal to open 33 SKO&LDO dealerships and 131 LPG distributorships in the Eastern part of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Oil companies have proposal to put up 5 SKO&LDO dealerships and 3 LPG distributorships in district Sultanpur and 5 LPG distributorships in Faizabad district. The delay has been on account of non-functioning of Dealer Selection Boards.

Commercial Exploitation of Natural Gas in Barmer District of Rajasthan

412. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether deposits of natural gas have been found in border district of Barmer in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of gas there; and

(c) by when commercial exploitation of these deposits is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Availability of LPG

413. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated plans for higher availability of LPG to every State during Ninth Plan;

(b) whether capacity of existing production sources are being increased for the purpose;

(c) the new plans proposed to be put up and projection made for the import of LPG on Ninth Plan;

(d) the State-wise increase proposed to be made in the supply of LPG in that plan period; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Capacity of some of the existing production sources is being augmented.

(c) The details of new LPG production sources proposed to be commissioned by end of IX Plan (2001-02) as per the present outlook are as under:

Refineries

1. Reliance Petroleum Refinery, Jamnagar
2. Essar Oil Refinery, Jamnagar
3. Numaligarh Refinery, Assam

Fractionations Plants

1. GAIL, Auraiya
2. GAIL, Gandhar

Based on the latest estimates for LPG production and demand proposed to be met by PSU Oil Companies, the surplus/deficit projected for the IX Plan period may be as under:

Year	Surplus (Deficit) (TMT)
1997-98 (ACT)	(1087)
1998-99 (EST)	(1598)
1999-00 (EST)	(609)
2000-01 (EST)	(257)
2001-02 (EST)	36

(d) and (e) LPG demand to be met through PSU Oil Companies is expected to increase from 4.18 MMT during 1996-97 to 7.11 MMT during 2001-02 i.e., the terminal year of the IX Plan in the country. This demand is proposed to be met by and large in full through indigenous production and imports to the extent of shortfall in the indigenous availability. Supply to the states is made as per the demand through the distributors.